

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 061156Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2580

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 1471

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP MY SN ID VS

SUBJECT: MISSION OF LE QUAN GIANG TO KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE AND  
JAKARTA

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 553

B. SINGAPORE 466

C. JAKARTA 1458

1. LE QUAN GIANG, NUMBER TWO MAN IN GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD US  
TODAY THAT HE WAS VERY WELL SATISFIED WITH HIS RECENTLY COMPLETED  
TRIP  
TO KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE, AND JAKARTA. MOST DETAILS HAVE ALREADY  
BEEN REPORTED REFTELS AND FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS WHICH  
MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. IN KUALA LUMPUR GIANG NOTED THAT GOM WAS FIRM ON THE "PRG"  
ISSUE AND HE HAD BEEN TOLD THERE WAS NO CHANGE BEING CONSIDERED.  
WITH RESPECT TO MAY MEETING OF ASEAN COUNTRIES IN KUALA LUMPUR,  
GIANG WAS TOLD GVN WOULD BE INVITED AS OBSERVER (SUBJECT TO EXPECTED  
APPROVAL BY PRIME MINISTER) AND THAT GOM WOULD BE WILLING FOR GVN TO  
BECOME ASEAN MEMBER BUT WOULD FIRST HAVE TO RECEIVE BLESSING OF  
OTHER MEMBER STATES. GIANG ALSO SAID THAT GOM AGREED TO USE ITS  
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INFLUENCE WITH AUSTRALIA ON "PRG" ISSUE NOTING AS AN ASIDE THAT

AUSTRALIAN POSITION AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE HAD BEEN "VERY BAD".

3. IN SINGAPORE GIANG IN TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE WAS NOT WAVERING ON THE ISSUE OF "PRG". GIANG LEARNED THAT RAJARATNAM HAD COMMITTED HIMSELF AT THE ALGIERS CONFERENCE TO RECEIVE "PRG" REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE IN SINGAPORE DURING GIANG'S OWN VISIT. HE FELT RAJARATNAM'S DECISION INFLUENCED PARTLY BY DOMESTIC SINGAPORE POLITICS AND PARTLY BY NEED TO MAINTAIN STATUS WITH "NON-ALIGNED" COUNTRIES. GIANG EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PROTEST PERSONALLY TO RAJARATNAM ABOUT RECEIVING THE "PRG" REPRESENTATIVES AND NOTED THAT HE HAD DONE SO "BLUNTLY". HE FELT THAT GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE RESPECTED GVN'S SPEAKING OUT ON OWN BEHALF AND THAT HIS HAVING DONE SO HAD HAD HEALTHY EFFECT.

4. ON ASEAN HE WAS TOLD BY RAJARATNAM THAT GVN MEMBERSHIP WOULD REQUIRE CONSENSUS OF ASEAN STATES BUT THAT GOS FAVORED ATTENDANCE AT KUALALUMPUR MEETING AS OBSERVER. GIANG EMPHASIZED IN REPLY THAT WHILE THIS ALL VERY WELL, NORTH VIETNAM MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO BAR GVN MEMBERSHIP BY BOYCOTTING ORGANIZATION ITSELF.

5. WITH RESPECT TO AUSTRALIA RAJARATNAM TOLD GIANG THAT WHITLAM WILL NOT RECOGNIZE "PRG", BUT HE DID NOT "RESPOND CLEARLY" TO REQUEST THAT SINGAPORE USE INFLUENCE ON BEHALF OF GVN WITH CANBERRA.

6. RAJARATNAM GAVE GIANG HIS FRANK VIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "WINDING UP ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" AND THAT THIS WAS THE REASON WHY SINGAPORE HAD TO "MAKE CALCULATIONS" ABOUT THE FUTURE.

7. SPEAKING OF HIS VISIT TO JAKARTA, GIANG NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL DIDI DJADJADINGRAT WAS A "HARD NUT TO CRACK" AND WOULD NOT BUDGE ON POSITION AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. HE FOUND BAFUN DEPUTY GENERAL HERNOWO VERY WELL INFORMED, BETTER THAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK WHO SEEMED HAZY ABOUT RULE 32 AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. REGARDING AUSTRALIA MALIK TOLD GIANG GOI WAS IN SIMILAR POSITION TO GVN VIS-A-VIS  
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CANBERRA. CANBERRA IS MAKING PROBLEMS FOR GOI CONCERNING POLITICAL PRISONERS AND GOI WAS CONCERNED THAT AUSTRALIANS MIGHT RAISE THIS ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. STILL, MALIK SAID THAT IF OCCASION AROSE HE WOULD "TALK TO" AUSTRALIANS ON "PRG" ISSUE. ON ASEAN MEETING, MALIK AGREED TO OBSERVER STATUS. GIANG RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM MALIK THAT GOI WANTS TO RETAIN ITS IMAGE OF BEING "COLD" TO RVN SO IT CAN PLAY ROLE WITH

NORTH VIETNAMESE AT LATER DATE. IF GOI WERE FRIENDLY TO GVN IT WOULD LOSE ITS INFLUENCE WITH HANOI. THE COMMUNISTS, GIANG SAID, EXPLOIT THIS PSYCHOLOGY TO INFLUENCE THE INDONESIANS BY PROTESTING AT EVERY IMAGINED SLIGHT (AS WE OURSELVES HAVE OBSERVED). IN GIANG'S VIEW GVN SHOULD ADOPT SIMILAR TACTIC TO OFFSET COMMUNIST ADVANTAGE. IN GENERAL GIANG DID NOT RECEIVE THE IMPRESSION THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA WAS IMBUED WITH PESSIMISM ABOUT SVN'S FUTURE. EVERYONE HE SPOKE TO ASSURED HIM THAT GOI WAS NOT REALLY NEUTRAL BUT SYMPATHETIC WITH GVN CAUSE. ALTHOUGH MALIK DID NOT SAY SO, GIANG RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT MALIK WAS THINKING INDONESIA IN FUTURE COULD PLAY A MIDDLEMAN ROLE OF SOME KIND IN NEGOTIATIONS ON INDOCHINA.

8. ACCORDING TO GIANG THE NLF REPRESENTATIVE IN JAKARTA GOES TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY EVERY MORNING AND USES ONE OF NVN DIPLOMATIC AUTOMOBILES. GVN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE NANG, ON OTHER HAND, HAS ONLY ONE ASSISTANT AND TOGETHER THE TWO MUST PERSONALLY PICK UP POUCHES, CODE TELEGRAMS, ETC.

THIS GREATLY LIMITS OPERATIONS OF GVN OFFICE.

STILL GIANG WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT HEAD OF OFFICE, NANG, SAW MALIK TWELVE TIMES LAST YEAR.

9. GIANG RETURNED TO SAIGON WITH THESE CONVICTIONS:

(A) GVN MISSIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR AND SINGAPORE MUST BE UPGRADED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (UPGRADING IN JAKARTA THOUGH GREATLY NEEDED UNFORTUNATELY IMPOSSIBLE UNDER GOI IMPOSED LIMITATIONS).

(B) GVN IN ON RIGHT COURSE IN ENGAGING IN ACTIVE PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND IN FORTHRIGHTLY PRESENTING ITS POSITIONS THROUGH ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVES TO NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS.

(C) GVN SHOULD WORK UP AND SEND TO ITS MISSIONS FAR GREATER VOLUME OF INFORMATION MATERIALS THAT AT PRESENT CONCERNING SITUATION IN SVN TO ENABLE VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS TO MAKE  
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MORE PERSUASIVE CASE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST COUNTRIES. HE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT MALAYSIANS HAD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO HELP GVN OUT IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES, BUT NEEDED BETTER INFORMATION TO DO SO.

10. GIANG WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE EXTENDED HIM BY OUR EMBASSIES ALONG ROUTE. HE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY EMBASSY JAKARTA WHICH HELPED MAKE UP FOR LIMITED CAPABILITIES OF SMALL GVN JAKARTA OFFICE.  
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